

Wellington Park June 2023 Pond Dredging Project Details

The dredging project of both the smaller pond on Wellingborough Drive and the larger pond on Forest Park Way is getting underway!

Step 1 of the project includes the installation of **orange construction boundary fencing** around the perimeter of the ponds. You may have noticed this orange fencing going up around the small pond this past week. This is to separate the work area from the homeowner areas. It is not anticipated that there will be any disturbance to homeowner's property during the project. The current schedule has the orange fencing being installed around the large pond starting Monday 6/5/23.

Step 2 is to start **draining both ponds** so the sediments in the bottom of the ponds can dry out making its removal easier, less messy and faster than when it is wet. It's estimated that it will take a few weeks to drain the ponds, after which they will sit to dry out for approximately 2 months before the dredging company, Backwater Environmental, starts removing the sediment.

The small pond will be mostly drained (as it was when the valve broke in 2020) but the large pond's water level will be lowered until only the upper 1/3 to half of the pond (closest to Forest Park Way) will be exposed to dry out. Once drained, **black silt fencing** will be placed inside the ponds to protect designated stockpile areas.

The pond committee is looking for volunteers to help relocate the fish and turtles in the small pond to the clubhouse pond once the dredging company starts draining the pond. This is tentatively scheduled to start as early as the 1st or 2nd week of June. If you are available to help, please contact the pond committee at wphoa2020@gmail.com for more details. The small pond will be restocked with fish upon completion of the project.

Step 3 is for Backwater Environmental to begin the dredging process. They are planning to start their **work in early August** by installing access roads into the ponds, installing required erosion control measures and then removing the 30 years of built up sediment. Once the dredging starts, the work is anticipated to take a **minimum of 4 weeks** but could be extended depending on weather conditions or any unforeseen issues that arise. **Work hours** will be 7am – 6pm Monday through Friday and 9am-5pm on Saturdays. No work on Sundays. Any areas that are disturbed or damaged during this process will be restored or replaced to their original condition by Backwater Environmental.

The project will be managed by Kris Bass Engineering who will be responsible for making sure Backwater Environmental performs their work in accordance with the permits and design plan. The project will be inspected at various points by the Town of Cary.

Once the orange fencing is up please **DO NOT CROSS BEYOND** it for important safety reasons! The sediment in the ponds can look deceptively solid but it is not. It is very easy to get stuck in it so **DO NOT** enter the ponds when they are drained. **PLEASE** talk to your children about the importance of **NOT** going past the orange fencing around the pond areas.

Once dredging activity begins, there will be **heavy construction equipment** moving around the ponds including dump trucks that will be removing the sediment. We do not anticipate road closings at this time though there may be some temporary detours or lane stoppages when trucks are leaving the area. **Traffic control** will be provided by Backwater Environmental as needed.

Our ponds are a tremendous **asset for our entire community** that, when properly managed and maintained, provides substantial functional and aesthetic value to the neighborhood. As part of our natural environment, our ponds are subject to sedimentation and silt buildup that, if allowed to continue, would negatively impact the value to our community. **Sediment buildup slowly impacts water volume, water quality and aquatic health.** Dredging must be performed periodically to address the buildup. Significant buildup in both our large and the small ponds is easily visible. We are not aware if our ponds have ever been dredged since the 1980s, so dredging is long overdue. **This is a community effort and we appreciate everyone's patience** as we undertake this project. It may be temporarily unsightly and there may be some unpleasant wafting odors during the project, but once it is over, our ponds will be restored to a healthier, cleaner environment for the neighborhood and the aquatic life that lives in the ponds. They are part of what makes Wellington Park a desirable place to live!

If you have any **questions or concerns** please **contact the Board** through the "Contact Us" page of our WP website [Home - Wellington Park \(sentrywebsites.com\)](http://Home - Wellington Park (sentrywebsites.com)) or at wphoa2020@gmail.com Thank you.